

HISTORY & HOPE WORKSHEET

BRAINSTORM USING THE 3-STEP HISTORY & HOPE APPROACH

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The 3-step History & Hope approach is briefly described below, and can be found more in depth in [History & Hope For Climate Action: An Interpretive Toolkit](#).

1

Lens

Connect a story from your park to one of five people-centered Lenses, including triumphs and mistakes.

2

Lesson Learned

What can you learn from the story you just told and what does that teach us about climate change? This can be positive, something to correct or a blend.

3

Action

How do we move visitors to collective climate actions that reduce emissions?

Lens: Identify a Story and its Biases

Pick!

Think of an important story from your site that addresses one of the questions below. Put a checkmark next to that Lens. Remember your story doesn't have to connect to climate change yet! For more on the Lenses, see page 16 of the History & Hope toolkit.

☐

Mobilization: How have people worked together for change?

☐

Creativity & Innovation: How do we tap into these qualities to create change?

☐

Path: How did we get to this moment of climate change?

☐

Security & Safety: How do we identify and address perceived threats?

☐

Indigenous Knowledge: How do we act on place-based wisdom for living sustainably?

Check!

Is your story as accurate as it could be? And does the way you tell it address your biases as a storyteller? The National Park Service is dedicated to [Telling All Americans' Stories](#) because it's the honest, inclusive, accurate account of history. Consider the following examples:

Demographics: When you say "everyone," are you talking about all Americans or just the most visible or privileged? Take an honest look at the demographics represented in your story. Consider finding ways to expand and diversify your narrative.

Exclusion: Who was left out of your story, and why? Was the exclusion intentional? What does that tell you?

Authority: When talking about the leader of a movement, do you also talk about the movement as a whole and the many people who worked alongside the leaders? Do you address prejudices that the movement or leader had?

What is your story, including the biases it addresses?

How does your story answer the question posed by the Lens you chose above?



2

Lesson Learned

Reflect!

Imagine sharing your story with a visitor. What should they take away from the story? What lesson do you want them to learn?
For more on each Lesson Learned, see page 37 of the History & Hope toolkit.

Emulate: People in the past successfully used their imagination, courage, and commitment to expand rights, protect an ecosystem, strengthen democracy, and many other things. We can emulate that today.

Reveal Harms and Imagine Solutions: People in the past committed horrendous wrongs. We can acknowledge those transgressions and peoples' resistance to them, and create a better future by imagining away from them.

Yes And: Often, history is a complex mix of good intentions and harmful impacts. We can “Yes And” by learning from both what went well and what did not.

What is the Lesson Learned from your story?

Why does this lesson matter for climate change?

3

Action

Empower!

Finally, how might someone act on this story? What type of action can you encourage as an interpreter?
For more on each Action, see page 45 of the History & Hope toolkit.

Communicate: Talk to your friends, family, and civic leaders about climate change and why it matters.

Climate Action Venn Diagram: This tool guides people through questions to help them find their personalized climate action. The questions are: What brings you joy? What are you good at? What needs doing?

UN's Sectoral Solution: Explore the types of actions that experts at the United Nations say are the most effective in decarbonizing. Help people see it's not too late to take action on climate.

Which action will you encourage visitors to take?